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UNIDO CONTRIBUTION TO THE SYSTEM-WIDE ACTION PLAN ON DRUG ABUSE CONTROL

Report by the Director-General

Summary

Provides information on the contribution of UNIDO to the System-Wide Action Plan in the period from May 1995 through August 1996.

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Introduction

1. In its decision IDB.12/Dec.7, the Industrial Development Board requested the Director-General, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 48/112, to continue incorporating into the UNIDO work programme the mandates and activities contained in the System-Wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and urged him to cooperate with other United Nations bodies, in particular the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP), on matters related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. The present document reports on the implementation of that decision and other aspects of the UNIDO contribution to the System-Wide Action Plan since the issuance of the last report on the subject (IDB.14/10/Add.3, chap. II).

I. UNIDO RESPONSE

2. The thrust of UNIDO activities in support of the System-Wide Action Plan continued as described in the previous report on the subject (IDB.14/10/Add.3, paras. 13-16).

3. Continuing its close collaboration with UNDCP, UNIDO actively participated in the meeting of the Subcommittee on Drug Control of the Administrative Committee on Coordination at its third annual session in July 1995, in Geneva. The Committee agreed on 12 multi-agency thematic plans of action, the initial eight of which would represent the first stage in the strategic reorientation process of the System-Wide Action Plan. The Subcommittee decided to include for discussion the UNIDO plan of action for promoting agro-industrial investment in drug producing areas, together with the broader theme of alternative development, during the second round of task force meetings that will probably begin in 1996.

II. CURRENT OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES

4. In the Chapare area of Bolivia, activities were completed that were directed towards reducing illicit drug cultivation by encouraging farmers to shift to alternative crops. These crops are now being processed with farmers participating as shareholders in these industrial ventures. Transfer of appropriate technologies, training in management and production and market promotional activities were the main UNIDO inputs.

5. Three project proposals, approved by the Programme and Project Review Committee, were presented on behalf of the Bolivian Government at a donors' conference held at La Paz in 1995. The Government of Bolivia is seeking the cooperation of developed countries for financing of the projects. Member States are urged to assist in the provision of funds for these and other projects in support of the objectives of the System-Wide Action Plan.

6. A study was undertaken to explore the feasibility of producing orange juice in Los Yungas, Bolivia. The Government has expressed an interest to involve UNIDO in discussions with the private sector for the purpose of setting up a processing plant.

7. At the request of the Government of Peru, UNIDO undertook a study to identify investment opportunities in the area of San Martin. A project proposal is being prepared to assist private investors and farmers in launching these ventures.

8. A project document, based on an extensive study of the social, economic and climatic conditions of the Dir district in Pakistan, has been signed by the Government of Pakistan. The objective is to promote private sector investment in high-value-added food products as substitutes for the illicit cultivation of poppy. The project is presently under review at UNIDO Headquarters.

9. Short-term technical advisory services were provided to Morocco to identify crops that could be grown in areas prone to illicit cultivation activities. A draft project proposal has been prepared and submitted to the Government.

10. In India, a project to upgrade the technology for the conversion of opium into licit drugs is being developed in collaboration with the UNDCP regional office.

11. The group training programme on the industrial utilization of medicinal and aromatic plants was continued for the eighth year at the Medicinal Plants Research Centre in Turkey, with 10 participants from developing countries. The course content was enhanced to include cleaner production and environment conservation. Training included the detection and estimation of amounts of illicit narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. Hands-on experience with agro-industrial processing of plants will enable participants to initiate alternative development activities in and around illicit crop-growing areas.

III. ACTION REQUIRED OF THE BOARD

12. The Board may wish to take note of the information contained in the present report.